

grants. Grants are to be used to purchase buses powered by alternative fuels and low-sulfur diesel fuel to be used as part of the airport fleet for a minimum of 5 years and, to the extent possible, grants are to be awarded to ensure a broad geographic distribution with no State receiving more than 10 percent of the available grant funding. The bill authorizes \$200 million over 5 years for this grant program.

**Clean Aircraft Engines.** Authorizes the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to establish a public-private research partnership with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, research universities, and members of the aero-propulsion industry to develop a clean ground demonstrator engine utilizing technologies developed by NASA and to focus on the development and certification of environmentally friendly manufacturing technologies, materials, and overhaul and repair. The bill authorizes such sums as may be necessary for the establishment of this public-private partnership.

#### WATER RESOURCES

**Marine Efficiency.** Authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to establish a public-private research partnership with the Federal Government, vessel operators, ports, terminal operators, shipyards, and equipment suppliers to develop and demonstrate technologies that increase fuel economy, reduce emissions, and lower costs of marine transportation and increase the efficiency of intermodal transfers. The bill authorizes such sums as may be necessary for the establishment of this public-private partnership.

**Improving Hydropower Capabilities.** Directs the Secretary of the Army to study the potential for reduced fossil fuel consumption through an increase in U.S. hydropower capabilities at dams owned or operated by the Corps of Engineers.

**Encouragement of Prohibitions on Great Lakes Off-Shore Drilling.** Contains a finding by Congress that environmental dangers associated with off-shore drilling in the Great Lakes for oil and gas outweigh the potential benefits of such drilling and encourages the Great Lake states to continue to prohibit off-shore drilling for oil and gas where such prohibitions already exist and to enact a prohibition of such drilling where one does not yet exist.

### WISHING A HEALTHY, HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE AMERICANS

#### HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to wish the membership of the Organization of Chinese Americans a healthy and happy New Year for the year 4703, the year of the Rooster.

The New Year is a time for reflection and thanksgiving for the joys of life and loved ones and I am thankful for the richness that this organization brings to my region. Chinese Americans have made great contributions to Western Pennsylvania and to our nation as a whole and I am very honored for this opportunity to wish them the best year yet in 4703.

I encourage my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in wishing the

### EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

members of the Organization of Chinese Americans a very happy and prosperous New Year.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, because US Airways canceled my flight into Washington, DC on February 8, 2005, I was unable to be present for rollcall vote no. 20, on agreeing to H. Res. 46; for rollcall vote no. 21, on agreeing to H.R. 315, the John Milton Bryan Simpson United States Courthouse Designation Act; and, for rollcall vote no. 22, on agreeing to H.R. 548, the Tony Hall Federal Building and United States Courthouse Designation Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote no. 20, "yes" on rollcall vote no. 21, and "yes" on rollcall vote no. 22.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. LoBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I was not present in the House Chamber for votes on February 8, 2005, as I was attending the memorial services of a constituent, Corporal Harry Swain, IV of Millville, New Jersey, who died as the result of hostile action in Iraq. If I were present for votes on this day, I would have voted "yea" on Rollcall #20, "yea" on Rollcall #21, and "yea" on Rollcall #22.

### IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOY SCOUT TROOP 243, FOUNDED IN LAFAYETTE, CALIFORNIA

#### HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the present and past members, leaders, and sponsors of Boy Scout Troop 243, founded in Lafayette, California, on the 50th Anniversary of the Troop.

Boy Scouting touches us all at some point in our lives—as troop members, parent volunteers, civic supporters, or simply as residents of our communities where we see the achievements of local Boy Scouts as upstanding models for our youth.

If it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a platoon of parents to serve a Boy Scout troop. Nationally, there are close to one million Boy Scouts served by over half a million adult volunteers—on average, more than one adult for every two Scouts.

Troop 243 has a rich history of local leadership. The founding sponsor was a committee of the Burton School, St. Mary's Orchards,

and St. Mary's Estate Home Improvement Association. The first Scoutmaster, H. T. McBride, was followed in 1959 by J.J. DuFosse. In 1965, Harry Wiser served as Scoutmaster when the Lafayette Christian Church became Troop sponsor.

Troop growth took off in 1988 when John Coleman, a 1974 Troop 243 Eagle Scout, took over as Scoutmaster, initiating numerous outdoor activities including 50-mile hikes, snow skiing, summer camping, river rafting, and a 100-mile bicycle trip over Mt. Lassen.

The program of varied outdoor activities, including canoeing in Minnesota, continued under Scoutmaster Terry Campbell in 1994. Then in 1996 John Coleman returned, adding new Troop experiences, including a sailing expedition to Catalina Island.

Throughout the 50-year life of Troop 243, generations of Boy Scouts have taken on Good Deeds projects as good community members and civic representatives. Scouts and parents donate many hours cleaning up local creeks and trails. This year the Troop raised over 22,000 pounds of food for the local food bank!

Mr. Speaker, I honor the 50 years of accomplishments of members, leaders, and sponsors of Troop 243. I am very proud to represent Troop 243 in Congress and I congratulate them on their achievements.

### TRIBUTE TO GEORGE GRUETT

#### HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Congress, to acknowledge George Gruett, a man who has devoted his life to his country and to his community at large. Currently, he serves the Mississippi valley as the Executive Vice President of the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association, a post he has held since 1980.

Mr. Gruett was born and raised in West Tennessee and while he has always been a part of the Mississippi valley, he has served his country bravely outside American borders. After completing his training with the Aviation Cadet Training, United States Army Air Corps, he flew with the 12th Air Force in the European Theatre of Operations in WWII.

After the war, Mr. Gruett obtained a degree in civil engineering and worked as a civilian employee of the Corp of Engineers. Upon his retirement in 1978 after 35 years of service, he was awarded the Meritorious Civilian Service Award and was inducted into the Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1991; awards befitting his commitment and his abilities. He retired from the Corp of Engineers to take up his position with the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association.

In addition to an impressive record of public service, Mr. Gruett remains active in his church and community. He is a member of the Presbyterian Church, the Scottish Rite Shrine, American Legion and the Society of American Military Engineers.

In light of recent natural disasters, I can't help but think of our own corner of the world